<u>Listing of Claims</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A record medium ~~for recording~~ including a control program that causes an inputting unit ~~to input information representing time to a researching unit, the control program causing the inputting unit~~ to perform the steps of:

[[(a)]] storing time information representing ~~predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ a user operation <u>occurring during a broadcast without storing any corresponding broadcast station identification information;</u>

[[(b)]] <u>retrieving the time information from storage: and</u>

transmitting the time information ~~representing the predetermined time~~ stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit[[;]] and

[[(c)]] inputting the time information ~~representing the predetermined time~~ to a searching unit,

<u>wherein</u> the searching unit ~~searching information representing contents from~~ <u>searches</u> a database <u>including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and associated times of broadcasting using at least</u> ~~corresponding to~~ the <u>inputted</u> time information ~~representing the predetermined time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.~~

44. (Currently Amended) The record medium as set forth in claim 43, wherein the control program ~~causing~~ <u>causes</u> the inputting unit to further perform the step of:

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[[(d)]] displaying the number of entries of the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing time information step [[(a)]].

45. (Currently Amended) A record medium ~~for recording~~ including a control program that causes an inputting unit having a counter ~~that operates with a predetermined clock signal and that inputs information representing time to a searching unit, the control program causing the inputting unit~~ to perform the steps of:

providing a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

[[(a)]] storing [[a]] the count value ~~of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

[[(b)]] ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored at the storing the count value step [[(a)]] to an external unit; ~~and~~

converting the count value to time information indicating when the user operation occurred at the external unit; and

[[(c)]] inputting the converted time information ~~representing time~~ to ~~the~~ a searching unit,

wherein the searching unit ~~searching information representing contents from~~ searches a database including information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least ~~corresponding to~~ the converted time information ~~representing time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.~~

46. (Currently Amended) The record medium as set forth in claim 45, the control program causing the inputting unit to further perform the step of:

[[(d)]] displaying ~~the~~ a total number of entries of the ~~time information representing the predetermined time~~ count value stored at the storing the count value step [[(a)]].

47. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit ~~for inputting information representing time~~[[,]] comprising:

a counter ~~that operates~~ configured to provide a count value based on ~~with~~ a predetermined clock signal;

~~storing means for storing~~ a storage unit configured to store the count value of said counter ~~at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

a connecting portion ~~for~~ configured to ~~directly connecting~~ connect the ~~count value stored in said storing means~~ inputting unit to an external unit; and

a communicating ~~means for transmitting~~ unit configured to communicate the count value stored in said ~~storing means~~ storage unit to the external unit through said connecting portion,

wherein the external unit converts the count value to time information ~~representing time is input~~ indicating when the user operation occurred during the broadcast and inputs the time information to a searching unit ~~through the external unit~~, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time the broadcast occurred using at least ~~corresponding to~~ the converted time information ~~representing time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

48. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ broadcast contents includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

49. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, wherein the ~~predetermined time is time at which~~ user operation during a broadcast occurs when the user ~~knows his or her~~ determines that the broadcast includes desired contents.

50. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, further comprising:

a junction ~~means having~~[[:]] unit including,

a base having an attaching portion ~~for attaching~~ configured to attach with said connecting portion, the attaching portion being disposed on an upper surface of said base; and

a coupling portion ~~connecting means, protruding~~ extending from the base ~~attaching portion,~~ the coupling portion being configured to couple the attaching portion to ~~for connecting~~ the external unit[[,]]

~~wherein said communicating means transmits the count value through said junction means.~~

51. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim ~~50~~ 47, wherein said ~~junction means~~ connecting portion is ~~has a lid~~ integrally formed with a main body of the inputting unit.

52. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, wherein the external unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

53. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit ~~for inputting information representing time~~[[,]] comprising:

a counter ~~that operates with~~ configured to provide a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing [[a]] the count value of said counter ~~at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

displaying means for displaying the count value stored in said storing means; and

communicating means for ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein the external unit converts the communicated count value to time information ~~representing time is input~~ indicating when the user operation occurred during the broadcast and inputs the time information to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time the broadcast occurred using at least ~~corresponding to~~ the converted time information ~~representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

54. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the count value is represented with spherical members on one side of said displaying means.

55. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 54, wherein when the count value is ~~transmitted~~ communicated by said communicating means, the number of spherical members gradually decreases on one side of said displaying means, and

wherein when part of the spherical members ~~disappears~~ disappear, the ~~other~~ remaining ones of the spherical members move to ~~the~~ positions at which the part of the spherical members disappear from.

56. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein said displaying means is formed in an almost square shape, and

wherein members representing the count value are arranged in a lattice shape irrespective of the storing order of entries of the ~~information representing time~~ count value stored in said storing means.

57. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the count value is represented with rod shaped members by said displaying means.

58. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the count value is represented as ~~the~~ a size of an area of said displaying means.

59. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the ~~predetermined time is time at which~~ user operation during a broadcast occurs when the user ~~knows his or her~~ determines that the broadcast includes desired contents.

60. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein said communicating means ~~transmits~~ communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

61. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ broadcast contents includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

62. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit ~~for inputting information representing time~~[[,]] comprising:

a counter ~~that operates with~~ configured to provide a count value~~based on~~ a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing [[a]] the count value of said counter ~~at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

communicating means for ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit; and

sound generating means for generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored in said storing means,

wherein the external unit converts the communicated count value to time information ~~representing time is input~~ indicating when the user operation occurred during the broadcast and inputs the time information to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least ~~corresponding to~~ the converted time information ~~representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

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63. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein said sound generating means generates a sound corresponding to the ~~predetermined~~ user operation when the count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value.

64. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein said sound generating means generates a sound when the count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value and the ~~predetermined~~ user operation is performed.

65. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein the ~~predetermined time is time at which~~ user operation <u>during a broadcast occurs when</u> the user ~~knows his or her~~ <u>determines that the broadcast includes</u> desired contents.

66. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein said communicating means ~~transmits~~ <u>communicates</u> the count value <u>to the external unit configured as</u> an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

67. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ <u>broadcast</u> contents includes information ~~about~~ <u>identifying</u> the contents.

68. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter ~~that operates with~~ <u>configured to provide a count value based on</u> a predetermined clock signal;

first storing means for storing ~~a~~ the count value of said counter ~~at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

identification information generating means for generating predetermined content identification information corresponding to the ~~user's~~ user operation;

second storing means for storing the identification information generated by said identification information generating means; and

communicating means for ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored in said first storing means and the identification information stored ~~in said first storing means and~~ said second storing means to an external unit,

wherein the external unit converts the communicated count value to information representing time and the converted information representing time and the content identification information ~~identifying contents~~ are input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcast using at least the converted time information ~~corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

69. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means store the count value and the identification information to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit.

70. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means store the count value and the identification information to discrete memories disposed in the inputting unit.

71. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, further comprising:

~~pressing means composed of~~ at least one button,

wherein said identification information generating means ~~detects~~ includes means for detecting different manners that ~~the pressing manner of~~ the user ~~against~~ presses the at least one button and ~~generates the~~ for generating different content identification information ~~that varies~~ corresponding to the ~~pressing manner~~ different manners that the user presses the at least one button.

72. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, further comprising:

displaying means for displaying the count value stored in said first storing means,

wherein said displaying means displays the count value in a different manner that varies corresponding to the content identification information.

73. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the ~~predetermined time is time at which~~ user operation during a broadcast occurs when the user ~~knows his or her~~ determines that the broadcast includes desired broadcast contents..

74. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein said communicating means ~~transmits~~ communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

75. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the content identification information ~~identifying the contents~~ is information that identifies whether the contents are television broadcast contents or radio broadcast contents.

76. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the content identification information ~~identifying the contents~~ is information that identifies whether the contents were broadcast in a predetermined area or out of the predetermined area.

77. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 68, wherein the content information ~~representing the contents~~ includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

78. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit ~~for inputting information representing time~~[[,]] comprising:

a counter ~~that operates with~~ configured to provide a count value based on ~~with~~ a predetermined clock signal;

first storing means for storing ~~a~~ the count value of said counter ~~at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

communicating means for communicating with an external unit and ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored in said first storing means to ~~an~~ the external unit; and

second storing means for storing data transmitted from ~~an~~ the external unit through said communicating means,

wherein the external unit converts the communicated count value to time information representing time ~~is~~ and inputs the time information to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database including broadcast information

indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the

converted time information ~~corresponding to the information representing time at which the~~

~~contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the~~

~~contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

79. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the

broadcast contents information ~~representing the contents~~ includes information ~~about~~

identifying contents.

80. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the data

stored in said second storing means ~~is~~ includes the broadcast contents or information

thereabout.

81. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the data stored in

said second storing means is compression-encoded audio data, and

wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

audio data reproducing means for decoding the compression-encoded audio data and

reproducing the decoded audio data.

82. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the data

stored in the second storing means is encrypted data corresponding to a predetermined

encrypting method, and

wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted data.

83. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means store the count value and the data to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit.

84. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means store the count value and the data to discrete memories disposed in the inputting unit.

85. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein the predetermined time is time at which user operation during a broadcast occurs when the user knows his or her determines that the broadcast includes desired broadcast contents.

86. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78, wherein said communicating means transmits communicates the count value to the external unit configured as an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

87. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's an operation by a user;

displaying means for displaying the number of entries of the time information stored in said storing means; and

communicating means for transmitting the time information stored in said storing means to an external unit,

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wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time

information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database

correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

88. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 87, wherein the

predetermined time is a time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents.

89. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 87, wherein said communicating

means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public

unit.

90. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 87, wherein the information

representing the contents includes information about the contents.

91. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit for inputting information representing

time[[,]] comprising:

first storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time

corresponding to user's an operation by a user occurring during a broadcast without storing

any corresponding broadcast station identification information;

communicating means for communicating with an external unit and transmitting the

time information stored in said first storing means to the external unit; and

second storing means for storing data transmitted from the external unit through said

communicating means,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit

searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time

information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database

correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

92. (Currently Amended) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 91, wherein the data

stored in said second storing means is the contents or information ~~thereabout~~ about the

contents.

93. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 91, wherein the information

representing the contents includes information about the contents.

94. (Currently Amended) An inputting unit ~~for inputting information representing~~

~~time~~[[,]] comprising:

a counter ~~that operates with~~ configured to provide a count value based on ~~with~~ a

predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing [[a]] the count value of said counter ~~at predetermined time~~

~~corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

sound generating means for generating a predetermined sound when the count value

is stored to said storing means corresponding to the ~~user's~~ operation performed by the user;

and

communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to

an external unit,

wherein the external unit converts the communicated count value to time information

~~representing time is input~~ indicating when the user operation occurred during the broadcast

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and inputs the time information to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database including broadcast information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time the broadcast occurred using at least ~~corresponding to~~ the converted time information ~~representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

95. (Original) The inputting unit as set forth in claim 94, wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

96. (Currently Amended) An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter ~~that operates with a predetermined clock signal~~, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a count value from the counter based on a predetermined clock signal;

[[(a)]] storing [[a]] the count value ~~of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

[[(b)]] directly connecting the ~~count value stored at the storing step (a)~~ input unit to an external unit; ~~and~~

[[(c)]] ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored at the storing the count value step [[(a)]] to the external unit connected at the connecting step [[(b),]];

converting the count value to time information indicating when the user operation occurred ; and

inputting the converted time ~~wherein~~ information ~~representing time is input~~ to a searching unit through the external unit,

wherein the searching unit ~~searching information representing contents from~~ searches a database including information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of

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broadcasting using at least ~~corresponding to~~ the converted time information ~~representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

97. (Currently Amended) The inputting method as set forth in claim 96, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ broadcast contents includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

98. (Currently Amended) An inputting method for an inputting unit ~~having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a count value based on a predetermined clock signa;

[[(a)]] storing [[a]] the count value ~~of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

[[(b)]] displaying the count value stored at the storing the count value step [[(a)]]; and

[[(c)]] communicating the count value stored at the storing the count value step [[(a)]] to an external unit

converting the count value to time information ,

wherein the count value is converted to time information indicating when the user operation occurred at the external unit and then ~~representing time is~~ input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database ~~corresponding to~~ including information indicating broadcast contents and an associated time of broadcasting using at least the converted time information ~~representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~.

99. (Currently Amended) The inputting method as set forth in claim 98, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ broadcast contents includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

100. (Currently Amended) An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter ~~that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

[[(a)]] storing [[a]] the count value ~~of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

(b) ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value stored ~~at~~ in the storing the count value step [[(a)]] to an external unit; and

generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored ~~at~~ in the storing the count value step [[(a)]],

wherein the count value is converted to information representing time ~~is~~ and then input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database ~~corresponding to~~ including the information indicating broadcast contents and an associated ~~representing~~ time of broadcasting using at ~~which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof~~ least the converted time information.

101. (Currently Amended) The inputting method as set forth in claim 100, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ broadcast contents includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

102. (Currently Amended) An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter ~~that operates with a predetermined clock signal~~, ~~the method~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

[[(a)]] storing [[a]] the count value ~~of the counter at predetermined time~~ ~~corresponding to user's~~ when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

[[(b)]] generating predetermined identification information corresponding to when the ~~user's~~ performs the operation during a broadcast;

[[(c)]] storing the predetermined identification information generated ~~at~~ in the identification ~~information~~ generating predetermined identification information step [[(b)]];

[[(d)]] ~~transmitting~~ communicating the count value and the identification information stored ~~at the first storing step (a) and the second storing step (c)~~ when the user performs the operation during a broadcast to an external unit,

wherein the count value is converted to information representing time ~~is~~ and then input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching ~~information representing contents from~~ a database ~~corresponding to time~~ including the information indicating broadcast contents and an associated ~~representing~~ time of day of broadcasting using ~~at which the contents were~~ ~~broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and~~ ~~broadcast time thereof~~ least the converted time of day information.

103. (Currently Amended) The inputting method as set forth in claim 102, wherein the ~~information representing the~~ broadcast contents includes information ~~about~~ identifying the contents.

104. (Currently Amended) An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter ~~that operates with a predetermined clock signal~~, ~~the method~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a count value based on a predetermined clock signal;

[[(a)]] storing [[a]] the count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's when a user performs an operation during a broadcast;

(b) communicating with an external unit and transmitting the count value stored at the first storing step (a) when the user performs the operation during the broadcast to the an external unit; and

(c) storing the data transmitted from the external unit at during the communicating step [[(b)]],

wherein the count value is converted to information representing time is and then input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time including the information indicating broadcast contents and an associated representing time of day of broadcasting using at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof least the converted time of day information.

105. (Currently Amended) The inputting method as set forth in claim 104, wherein the information representing the broadcast contents includes information about identifying the contents.